

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION



BRIAN SCHWEITZER, GOVERNOR

STATE OF MONTANA

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SOUTHWESTERN LAND OFFICE
1401 27th Avenue
Missoula, Montana 59804-3199

May 14, 2007



Dear County Commissioners,

Although headline news stories tend to feature wildfire threatening homes in other parts of the country, the wildland/urban interface problem they describe is a significant issue here in Montana.

The difference has been that, until relatively recently, rural and urban areas in our state had discrete boundaries. You might see the occasional home nestled in the woods but rarely an entire community. All that has changed. Urban sprawl is rampant in southwest Montana. In addition, wildfire in these areas is tough to control. As development increases, lives and property will be threatened as never before.

To learn more about the problem and begin working with us on some solutions, I invite you to participate in Ravalli County's first Firewise Community workshop to be held at the Corvallis Fire Station on Friday or Saturday, June 1st and 2nd.

This one-day workshop will bring together citizens and community leaders involved in planning, developing, building, sustaining and protecting wildland-urban interface communities. Its format emphasizes participation and creative problem solving. I believe you will find it an informative, enjoyable, interesting and productive experience.

I have enclosed directions to the Corvallis Fire Hall along with a workshop agenda and registration form. Please complete the registration form and fax to: 406-542-4285. If you are not able to attend and have a colleague who might be interested, please share the registration information.

I look forward to seeing you on June 1st or 2nd. We will begin at 8 o'clock. If you have questions about the workshop, contact Jamie Kirby, 406-542-4321 (jamiekirby@mt.gov) or Pat Cross 406-542-4251 (pcross@mt.gov).

Sincerely,

Jim Knapp
Chief, Corvallis Fire

Byron Bonney
Service Forester, Bitterroot RC&D

Kurt Gelderman
Service Forester, DNRC



Firewise Community Workshop
June 1st and 2nd, 2007
Corvallis Fire Hall, Corvallis, MT

AGENDA

- 0800 Registration
- 0830 Welcoming Remarks and Introductions
Jamie Kirby, DNRC Southwestern Land Office
- 0845 Opening Remarks "The Time is Right for FireWise"
Jim Freeman, chair of Bitterroot RC&D Interface Committee
- 0910 Break
- 0930 WUI Perspectives Panel Discussion – moderator: Kit Sutherland, Bitterroot RC&D
Bitterroot RC&D – Byron Bonney
Corvallis Fire Department - Chief Jim Knapp
USFS Bitterroot NF– Rick Floch
County Commissioner – Greg Chilcott
- 1030 Video: *Protecting Your Home from Wildfire*
- 1050 Break
- 1110 Orientation to the FireWise Communities Exercises
Pat Cross, DNRC Fire & Aviation
- 1130 Lunch (Provided on site)
- 1200 Breakout: Assessing Wildland Fire Hazards and Strategies to Reduce Hazards
Tasks 1&2 in FireWise Communities Participant Workbook.
- 1345 Presentations by Breakout Groups on Tasks 1&2
Jamie Kirby
- 1400 Orientation to Firewise Communities Exercises
Pat Cross
- 1415 Breakout: Evaluation of a New Development Workbook Tasks 3a and 3b
- 1615 Presentations by Breakout Groups on Tasks 3a and 3b
Kit Sutherland
- 1630 Summary and Closing Remarks
Nan Christiansen & Becki Linderman
- 1700 Adjourn



Firewise Communities Workshop

June 1 or 2, 2007 – 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Corvallis Fire Station #1
317 Woodside Cutoff Road
Corvallis, MT

Over 7,000 structures have been burned by wildfires in the USA since the 2000 wildfire season. Firefighters have been doing all they can to protect homes and lives, but they ***need your help!***

*Take part in one of these valuable **one-day sessions** to learn the basic Firewise techniques that can help **protect existing communities** or help in **planning new ones!***

Fee: \$5.00- non-refundable fee includes lunch on-site. Continuing education units may apply.

Registration: Complete the form below and submit with your payment.

Register early-- space is limited- minimum of 20 attendees per day session/40 max. per day

Mail payment and registration to:

MT DNRC – SWLO; Attn. Jamie Kirby

1401 27th Ave., Missoula, MT 59804– (406) 542-4321

Make Checks payable to: Keep Montana Green

First Name: _____ M.I. _____ Last Name: _____

Representing: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Please indicate your professional affiliation:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance | <input type="checkbox"/> Contractor/builder |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Fire department |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Realty | <input type="checkbox"/> Local government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Homeowner | <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State/Federal | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Which day do you prefer?

- ☐ Friday, June 1
☐ Saturday, June 2

Are you willing to attend either day?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No



317 Woodside Cutoff Rd
Corvallis MT
59828-9441 US

Notes:

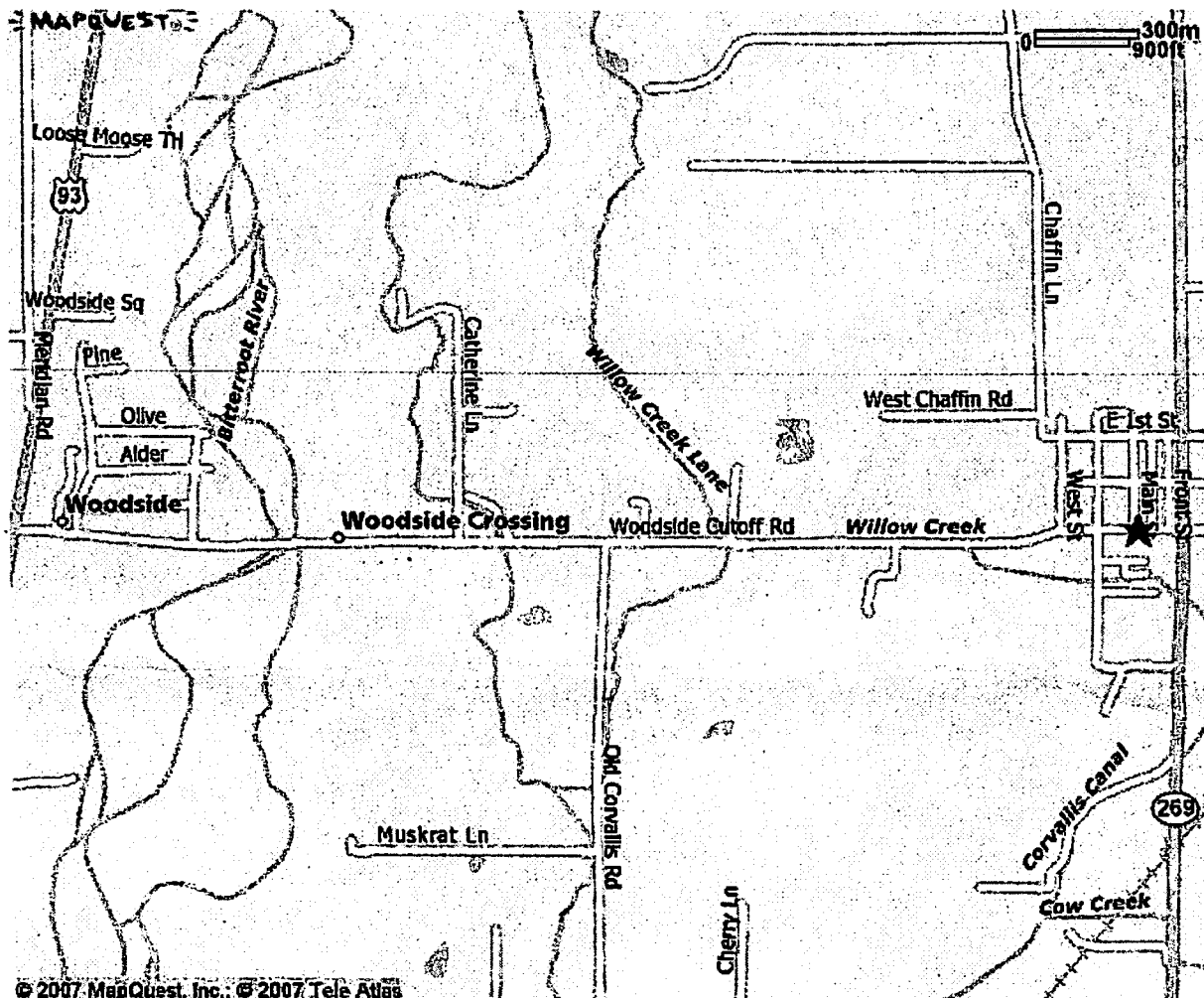
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